



Virginia Indian Advisory Board

Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 23, 2022

10:30am – 11:30 am

Mechanicsville Branch Library
7461 Sherwood Crossing Place
Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Minutes

This meeting of the Virginia Indian Advisory Board was held in-person with a quorum present.

Board members attending in person:

Brandon Custalow, Chair
Cami Adkins
Dr. Gregg Kimball
Julie Langan
Dr. Ashley Spivey

I. Welcome

Brandon Custalow, VIAB Chair, welcomed Board members and guests.

II. Call to Order

Chair Custalow called the meeting to order. Erik Conyers, representing the Secretary of the Commonwealth, attended in-person. Suzanne Holland attended virtually.

III. Approval of Minutes and Agenda

Chair Custalow asked if anyone had questions about the minutes of the July meeting that had been distributed electronically. Ms. Adkins moved that the minutes be approved. Ms. Langan seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously. Chair Custalow asked if anyone had changes to the proposed agenda. Hearing none, Dr. Kimball moved approval of the agenda; the motion was seconded by Dr. Spivey and approved unanimously.

IV. Update from VIAB Work Group

Dr. Buck Woodward joined the meeting virtually and gave a report on the Workgroup's progress. While the Workgroup has not met in-person, the individual members continue their work. The Workgroup sent letters to the applicants in order to clarify and provide further documentation. The applicants were alerted that the new Workgroup genealogist will need material that she currently does not have. He said that the letters are essentially pre-reports



and that the Board should have a final report by the deadline which is November 26. He's confident workgroup will have report by the deadline, but he asked if there was if there is any flexibility especially since the genealogist has only recently joined. He also made note of the new materials submitted by a third party.

V. Discussion: State Recognition Workgroup Progress

Board Members discussed the deadline with Dr. Woodard. Chair Custalow wants to make sure that the Board has time to review the material. There will be a presentation at the next meeting. Mr. Conyers and Ms. Holland said that the Board will be able to make a decision in January or February in accordance with the established timeline.

Dr. Spivey requested that the letter sent by the workgroup be forwarded to the full board. Mr. Conyers will do so.

Dr. Spivey raised concerns about procedural issues and making sure that the responsibilities and roles of the Board and Workgroup are clear. Dr. Woodard stated that the workgroup is following the guidance on Secretary of Commonwealth's website regarding process.

Ms. Adkins felt that Dr. Woodard's characterization of the third party who submitted information pertinent to the petition as "estranged" family was inappropriate. She stated that we should not attribute motivations without specific knowledge.

Ms. Adkins asked Dr. Woodard how genealogist Jean Kelley's work was progressing. Dr. Woodard stated that she had requested materials from the petitioner. Dr. Spivey asked if Ms. Kelley was trying to establish a base role. Dr. Woodard said that this had been requested from the petitioner but that he doubted that there was a base role. It would need to be reconstructed.

VI. Public Comment:

Ms. Annette Price spoke to the Board. She questioned whether a base roll is required. She stated that the letters and documentation submitted by third parties were an "embarrassment" and she stated that the Board and Workgroup should not "go looking for extra things to do." She noted that materials in response to the Workgroup's letters had been added to Google Drive, including affidavits from other tribes.

VII. Closing remarks and Adjournment

A question was raised about the membership of the Board since reappointment or replacement of Board members would occur in the coming days. Mr. Conyers stated that he could not comment on that issue but that the Secretary of Commonwealth's office would put a priority on maintaining continuity, especially since we are in the middle of a complicated process.



Adjournment:

Chair Custalow asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting which was made by Ms. Langan and seconded by Dr. Spivey. The Chair adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:30 a.m.